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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A transportable security surveillance system for rapid installation in the office of an employee who may face a potentially violent situation. An Ethernet LAN connects a central security computer in a central security station to an audio-video compressor (AVC) in the employee's office. A covert video camera and a microphone in the employee's office provide video and audio data to the AVC. The employee is provided with a triggering device that triggers the AVC to begin streaming real-time audio and video data over the LAN to the central security computer when a situation arises that requires real-time surveillance of the employee's office. Before the trigger, no data is transmitted over Pre-trigger data may be stored in an AVC the LAN. memory, and may be retrieved for later analysis following a triggering event.